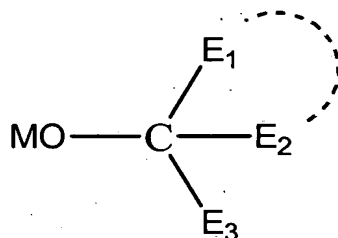


Claims:

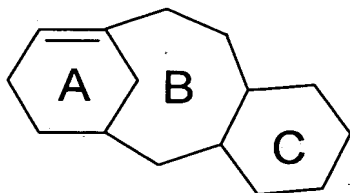
1. A metal alkoxide having the formula:



wherein M is a metal;

E₁ and E₂ and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic skeleton containing about 6 to 20 ring atoms, the hetero atoms being oxygen; and E₃ is hydrogen or hydrocarbon.

2. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E₃ is hydrogen.
3. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is a Group IA, IIA or transition metal.
4. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is lithium, magnesium, sodium, potassium or titanium.
5. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E₃ is hydrogen and M is a Group IA, IIA or transition metal.
6. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E₃ is hydrogen and M is lithium, magnesium, sodium, potassium or titanium.
7. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E₁ and E₂ and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise the carbocyclic skeleton corresponding to rings A, B and C of structure



8. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E_1 and E_2 and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise the carbocyclic skeleton corresponding to rings A, B, C and the oxetane ring of structure

